



State of Utah

Department of
Natural Resources

ROBERT L. MORGAN
Executive Director

OLENE S. WALKER
Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE
Lieutenant Governor

NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2004

Contact: Michael Glenn at (801) 538-5436 or the Utah Energy Office at (801) 538-5428

Pool Tips for Energy Savings

Heated swimming pools can be energy hogs. But, there are big opportunities to reduce utility bills for Utah's backyard pools and spas, city recreation centers, public school and university pools, motels and hotels.

According to Mike Glenn at the Utah Energy Office, evaporative heat loss is the biggest cause of energy waste. "The best way to reduce evaporation loss is to use a pool cover when a pool is vacant," says Mr. Glenn. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, each pound of 80-degree water that evaporates from a pool or spa takes a whopping 1,048 Btu of heat out of the pool. Use of pool covers can cut evaporation by 90 percent and heat loss by 70 percent while reducing the amount of makeup water needed and keeping pools cleaner. A federal study shows an average of \$2200 per year saved at each of 278 large swimming pools where pool covers were used.

Other tips for reducing pool energy costs include keeping pool water at no more than the recommended swimming temperature of 78 degrees. Reducing water temperature four degrees, from 82 to 78 degrees, can cut natural gas costs by as much as 40 percent. For indoor pools, use a humidistat to control exhaust air units, consider installing solar hot water equipment for clean energy heating and insist on a higher efficiency gas heater when replacing a pool's heating unit. Install wind breaks around outdoor pools to keep the chill off swimmers.

Pool heaters can also be shut down or turned down when pools are not in use for a few days. Glenn notes, "It is a myth that more energy is needed to heat a pool back up after turning the temperature down. Try experimenting to determine how long it takes to heat the pool back up. Lowering the temperature and raising it back up again always saves energy over keeping it at a constant temperature."

Check out "Pool Tips for Energy Savings" a publication now available through the Utah Energy Office website at www.energy.utah.gov or the U.S. Department of Energy website at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/rspec/factsheets.html>

###